

Name: _____

110 Assignment I: Early Baroque Basso Continuo

The development of *Basso Continuo*—a “continuous bassline” from which players “realized” a harmonic accompaniment—was one of the pivotal developments of the Early Baroque period. These bass part could be either “unfigured” in which the performer—many times the composer himself—determined the harmony from the treble and bass notes (typical in the early Baroque), or “figured” with numerals and signs below the bass to indicate the chord (typical of the late Baroque)

Below is a vocal line with basso continuo accompaniment from Francesco Cavalli’s *La Calisto*. Please realize the following continuo part according to the added figures, writing the chords on the blank middle staff adhering to the following Agazzari’s rules, including

- Basso continuo chord changes usually move in time with the bass line.
- Musical symbols such as \sharp or \flat refer to the third of a chord.
- Absence of a symbol means the chord is realized from context.
- Numerical figures indicate either a note above the note, or the inversion of the chord.
- Dashes indicate suspensions (i.e. 4–3) that should be resolved correctly.
- The harmony is realized below the treble part *when possible*.
- The chordal harmonization must be at least three-note chord, and doublings should emphasize the root of the chord.
- Chords should move smoothly and be “under the hand.”

The image shows a musical score for a vocal line and a basso continuo part. The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the basso continuo part is in the bass clef. The music is in common time (C). The lyrics are: "Er-me, e so-li - ghe ci-me, Ch'al cer-chio m'ac-co - sta-te DeHe lu-ci_a-do - ra-te, In voi di no-vo_im-". The basso continuo part has a blank middle staff for the student to write the chords. The bass line starts with a whole note G2, followed by a whole note F2, and then a whole note G2. There are figured bass symbols below the bass line: a sharp sign (F#) under the first G, and a sharp sign (F#) under the second G.

5

pri - me, Con-tem-pla - tor se - cre - to, En-di - mi - o - ne l'or - me; Le va - ri - a - te

9

for-me Del-la stel - la d'ar - gen - to Lu - sin - gan - do, e ba - cian - do, Di chia-re not - ti

13

tra i so - lin - ghi or - ro - ri Sul - la ter - ra, e su - i sas - si i suoi splen - do - ri.